

# Ocean Currents

## Student Activity Book

### I. Introduction

Ocean currents influence the weather in coastal areas. They also influence sailing vessels. Though they visibly affect many people's lives, they are invisible. To be able to map and predict currents, we have to release floating buoys and keep track of their positions.

This activity will introduce you to the information that these buoys collect for us.

#### **Get Info Objectives**

1. Relate direction given in degrees to compass direction
2. Describe floats used in ocean current research.
3. Estimate current speed from scaled graphical representations.

#### **Gather Data Objectives**

1. Interpret graphs of current speed and direction.
2. Determine the relationship between current speed and depth.
3. Explain how Global Positioning System-equipped drifters send more useful information than buoys without GPS.

#### **Application Objectives**

1. Describe currents' effects on coastal weather.
2. Describe currents' effects on sailing vessels.
3. Describe currents' effects on sea life.